

**REMARKS**

The Response includes a Preliminary Amendment which reduces the number of claims and the fees due. Also, the claims have been amended to remove reference numbers according to U.S. practice. No subject matter has been surrendered and no new subject matter has been added. The amendments are not for substantial or statutory reasons related to patentability.

The enclosed fee payment of \$3,610.00 pays the following fees.

- \$2,200 for 11 independent claims over 3.
- \$1,050 for 21 total claims over 20.
- \$360 for multiple dependent claim surcharge.

Applicants note that the Notice states a previous payment of \$250 will be applied to the additional claim fees due. However, the \$250, which was paid with the filing of the application, is for excess sheets of the specification and drawings over 100 sheets.

Applicants believe no other fees are due. However, please charge Everest Intellectual Property Law Group's Deposit Account No. 50-3189 for any additional fees due, or credit any over payment. If a time extension is required for this response to the Notice consider this a petition therefore and charge the deposit account for the fee.

Applicants look forward to early and favorable consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

EVEREST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP

Date: November 20, 2006

BY



Michael S. Leonard, Reg. No. 37,557  
Attorneys for Applicant  
P.O. Box 708  
Northbrook, IL 60065  
Phone: (847) 272-3400  
Fax: (847) 272-3417